

Summer 2018

€coMerit

Membership Newsletter

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Fast Fact

€coMerit companies on average reduce their carbon emissions by 9% each year. This is at a time when Ireland is increasing its emissions and failing on its 2020 Paris Accord commitments.



New Lights for Wexford Arts

Wexford Arts Centre have recently installed new LED gallery lights, supported by an 80% grant from €coMerit.

The new track-mounted spot lights replace outdated halogen lamps which were using three times the energy for an equivalent light output. The new lights fit the existing track, allowing the installation to be carried out with minimum fuss and cost.

The EcoMerit Award for Sustainability Improvement (the EASI fund) is exclusively available to **€coMerit** certificate holders and may be used for a small scale

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Environmental Protection Agency



Eastern - Midlands Waste Region



Southern Waste Region



Connacht-Ulster Waste Region

sustainability project at the certified site or a closely associated site, such as a local community initiative.

For details of the EASI fund scheme, and an application form, click [here](#).

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Favourite Fixes -

The Water Cooler

EcoMerit advisors are privileged to have unfettered access to a wide range of businesses in every sector. It can sometimes be surprising how often the same issue emerges in diverse situations. We like to call these our 'favourite fixes'. One of these is the bottled water cooler. Do you have one of these?



In our view, the humble water cooler is representative of all that is wrong about the way we live. Think about it for a moment.

We spend huge sums of public money bringing water up to drinking standard and piping it through a leaky



**Dun Laoghaire - Rathdown County
Council**



Wexford County Council

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infrastructure to our homes and businesses throughout the nation. Most of it ends up getting flushed down our toilets. Then we go out and buy bottled water for drinking. With water coolers, as often as not, we also buy single use plastic cups, which we throw into the bin each time.

Even a small business with one low-usage bottled water cooler going through, say, one bottle per week will be spending close to €1,000 per year. Very expensive and wasteful.

So, what is the solution? Easy. Take your pick;

- Use tap water. Zero cost.
- If you want extra filtering for your water, install an in-line water filter. €150.
- If you want chilled drinking water, install a combined chiller and filter. €450.
- If in a public area, install a version which includes a water fountain.
- Use glasses rather than throw-away plastic cups
- Or give your staff their own re-usable drinking bottles

Think Outside the Bottle!

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SEAI Grant Projects



As with previous years, we are having a busy summer supporting client companies with their energy efficiency projects with grant aid won on their behalf from SEAI.

The photograph above shows the new pool cover being deployed for the first time at Newtown School, Waterford. The cover will save the school more than €5,000 per year in energy costs through reduced evaporation and heat losses when the pool is not in active use. Newtown School are also in the process of installing new gas boilers to achieve even more energy and cost savings.

Other projects underway are new LED lighting at Enniscorthy Enterprise & Technology Centre and Roche Freight, both in County Wexford. Dunamais Arts Centre in Portlaoise have just installed new state-of-the-art stage lighting.



Photo: The new Dunamaise stage lighting with 2kW of LED lamps replacing 24 kW of standard stage lighting.

Loft insulation is being installed at the Waterford & South Tipperary Community Youth Service 'Millennium' Building in Waterford. Wexford Enterprise Centre are installing a range of improvements including insulation, LED lighting and a sensor operated roller door.



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New EcoMerit Awards



Dún Laoghaire Marina, Ireland's largest coastal marina, achieved **EcoMerit** certification In July. Presenting the certificate, An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Ossian Smyth commented:

"It is a great privilege to award the EcoMerit Environmental Certification to Dun Laoghaire Marina, the first marina in the country to achieve this certification and a company which has committed to thirty one specific actions to reduce the environmental impact of its operations in Dun Laoghaire Harbour by 2020"

Pictured at the presentation of the **EcoMerit** Award by Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council were, left to right, Dr. Shane Colgan, Manager for Resource Efficiency at the Environmental Protection Agency; Paal Janson, Marina General Manager; and Councillor Ossian Smyth, An Cathaoirleach of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council.

Other recent awardees are;

- Diesel Injection Services (Co. Tipperary)
- Envirico (Co. Kilkenny)
- Dive & Marine Contractors (Co. Kilkenny)
- HRBR (Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown)
- Diamond Tools & Woodworking Machinery (Co. Wicklow)
- Cork Chamber (Cork City)

- County Wexford Community Workshops, Kilcannon and Astro Active sites (Co. Wexford)
- Pelko (Dublin City)
- Coral Leisure Monaghan (Co. Monaghan)
- GJM Contracts (Co. Wexford)
- O'Connor Roofing Supplies (Co. Louth)
- Irish Village Markets (Dun Laoghaire - Rathdown)

We are delighted to welcome them all into the **€coMerit** 'family', which now totals 95 certified sites across the Republic of Ireland.

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Editorial Comment

Project Ireland 2040



Econcertive was privileged to attend the launch of Project Ireland 2040 in June. Introduced by An Taoiseach, and several other cabinet ministers, this is the government's overarching policy initiative to 'make Ireland a better country for us all'.

It is strong on environmental commitments and has a budget to match. All good then? Well, yes and no.

Taken at face value, it really is impressive. One couldn't realistically expect a stronger more positive message to come from Government.

However, I do have concerns. As was pointed out by a fellow guest, a member of the Citizens' Assembly, it lacks specific short term targets. Without these, it looks more like an aspirational document than a firm plan. Given our complete failure to achieve our 2020 Paris Accord commitments, one could imagine us in 2040 launching a new plan for 2060 because the old one has just failed.

Two particular items rang alarm bells for me;

We are still going to be burning peat in our power stations until 2030. That is ludicrous. We need to stop this crazy practice now, not in 12 years time.

We are planning on a major move from diesel to electric vehicles, but there is still no firm short-term plan to develop an infrastructure which is fit for purpose.

So, for now I live in hope rather than expectation.

Readers should note that the above are purely the personal views of Phil Walker, Newsletter Editor and do not represent the views of the EcoMerit Steering Group or the EcoMerit membership.

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**Technology Update -
Space Heating**



Choosing how to heat any premises will have a major impact on its through life operating cost and its long term environmental performance. So, if installing a new heating system, or upgrading an old one, it pays to take a little time to consider the options.

One of the cheapest ways to install heating into a building is to fit electric wall heaters. No expensive boilers, pipework or ducting to bother about. Quick, cheap and easy. Job done. Great! So long as you are not paying the heating bills.



Electric wall heaters are cheap to install and very expensive to run. This is probably why you see them in so many buy-to-let properties. The table below gives the approximate running costs and carbon emissions performance of the main heating options now available.

Heat Source	Price per kWh (unit)	CO ₂ per kWh (unit)
Day Rate Electricity	15 cents	393 g
Night Rate Electricity	8 cents	393 g
Oil	8 cents	257 g
Bulk Gas (LPG)	6 cents	229 g
Woodchip / Biomass	4 – 6 cents	5 g
Mains Gas	4 cents	205 g
Electric Heat Pump	4 cents	98 g
Gas Heat Pump	1 cent	52 g

As you can see, the variations in cost and environmental performance are huge. Direct electric heating is very expensive and polluting. Oil is the next worst choice, both in terms of cost and emissions. Gas, although a fossil fuel, is much cheaper and rather less polluting.

Then we get into the really 'good' stuff. Biomass is by far the lowest emissions option, and quite cheap to run. The new heat pump technologies are great performers. For every unit of electricity consumed, a heat pump will deliver four units of heat. So costs and emissions are drastically reduced in comparison to conventional electric heating. Gas powered heat pumps offer incredibly low operating costs.

So, when contemplating a heating solution you will be living with for years to come, take the time to choose carefully. A bit of care now can deliver great results in the long term.



A recommended source of advice and information are **EcoMerit** certified specialists Heat Doc Ltd. www.heatdoc.ie

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New Contributions Invited



Please let us know if you have any noteworthy news you would like to share with the **EcoMerit** 'family' in future newsletter editions.

Also if you would like to contribute a case study for

the **EcoMerit** website, this would be very welcome. If you need help drafting it, just let us know. Case studies can also become newsletter features.

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